AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Previously presented)** A method comprising:

a) administering an activatible MRI agent comprising a chelator and a paramagnetic metal ion that is coordinatively saturated by said chelator and a therapeutic blocking moiety covalently attached to said chelator, wherein said therapeutic blocking moiety comprises a cleavage site and an agent therapeutically active in cancer;

b) cleaving said site such that:

i) said agent therapeutically active in cancer interacts with a target substance; and,

ii) the T_1 of said MRI agent is decreased; and,

c) producing a magnetic resonance image of a cell, tissue, or patient and eliciting a therapeutic effect.

2. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said chelator is DOTA or DPTA.

3. **(Currently amended)** A method according to Claim [[12]] 2, wherein said chelator is a substituted chelator.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said agent therapeutically active in cancer is selected from the group consisting of doxorubcin, docetaxel, etoposide, irinotecan, paclitaxel, tenoposide, topotecan, vinblastine, vincristine, vindesine, cisplatin, methotrexate, and taxol.

5. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said cleavage site comprises a peptide capable of being cleaved by a protease.

6. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to Claim 5, wherein said protease is selected from the group consisting of serine proteases, cysteine proteases, aspartyle proteases and metalloproteases.

7. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to Claim 6, wherein said cysteine proteases are selected from the group consisting of cathepsins, calpains, caspases, and interleukin-converting enzyme (ICE).

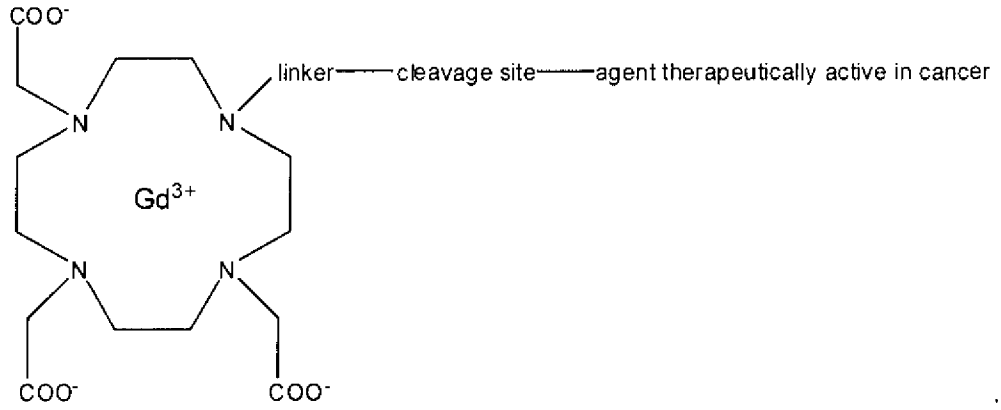
8. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to Claim 6, wherein said serine proteases are selected from the group consisting of trypsin, chymotrypsin, and tissue plasminogen activator and (tPA).

9. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to Claim 6, wherein said metalloproteases are selected from the group consisting of metalloproteinase-1, metalloproteinase-2, and metalloproteinase-3.

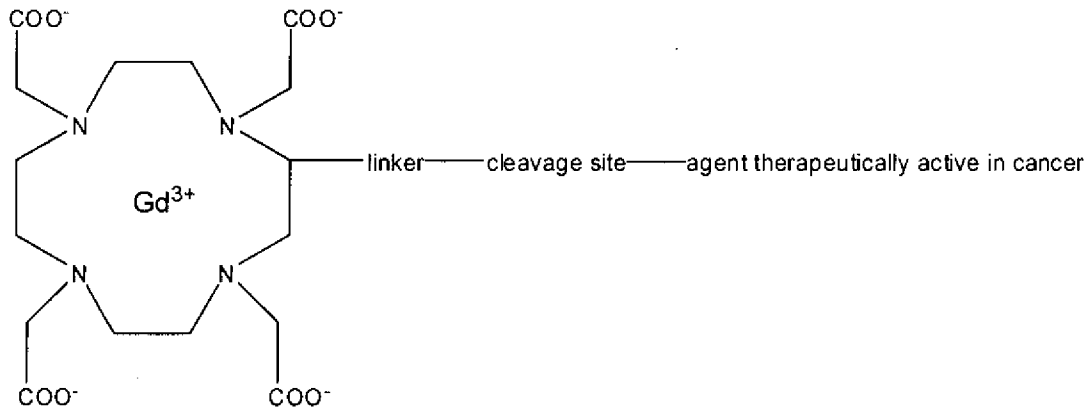
10. **(Previously presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said cleavage site comprises a carbohydrate group capable of being cleaved by a carbohydrase.

11. **(Currently amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said paramagnetic metal ion is selected from the group consisting of gadolinium (III) ([[Gd3+]] Gd^{3+}), iron (III) ([[Fe+3]] Fe^{3+}), manganese (II) ([[Mn+2]] Mn^{2+}), yttrium (III) ([[Y+3]] Y^{3+}), dysprosium (III) ([[Dy+3]] Dy^{3+}), and chromium (III) ([[Cr(III)]] Cr^{3+}).

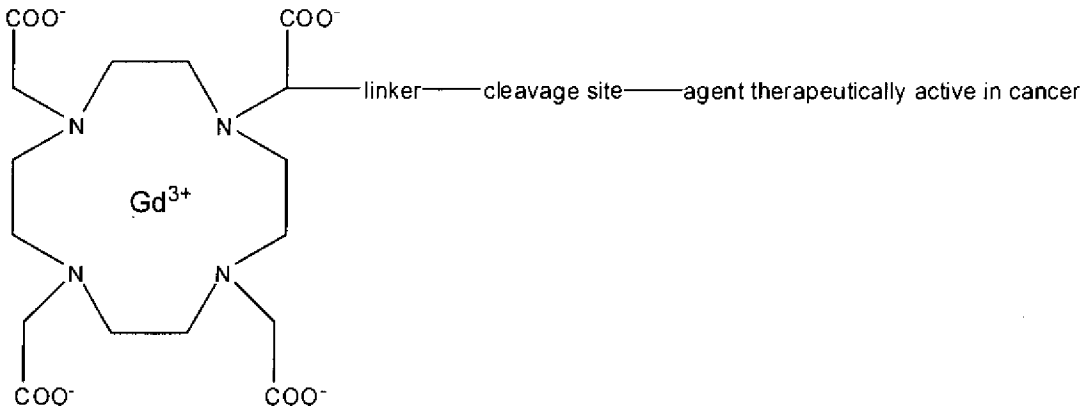
12. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said MRI agent has the formula:



13. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said MRI agent has the formula:



14. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said MRI agent has the formula:



15. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 10, 11, or 12, wherein said agent therapeutically active in cancer is selected from the group consisting of doxorubcin, docetaxel, etoposide, irinotecan, paclitaxel, tenoposide, topotecan, vinblastine, vincristine, vindesine, cisplatin, methotrexate, and taxol.

16. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to Claim 10, 11, or 12, wherein said cleavage site comprises a peptide capable of being cleaved by a protease.

17. **(Previously presented)** A method according to Claim 10, 11, or 12, wherein said cleavage site comprises a carbohydrate group capable of being cleaved by a carbohydrase.